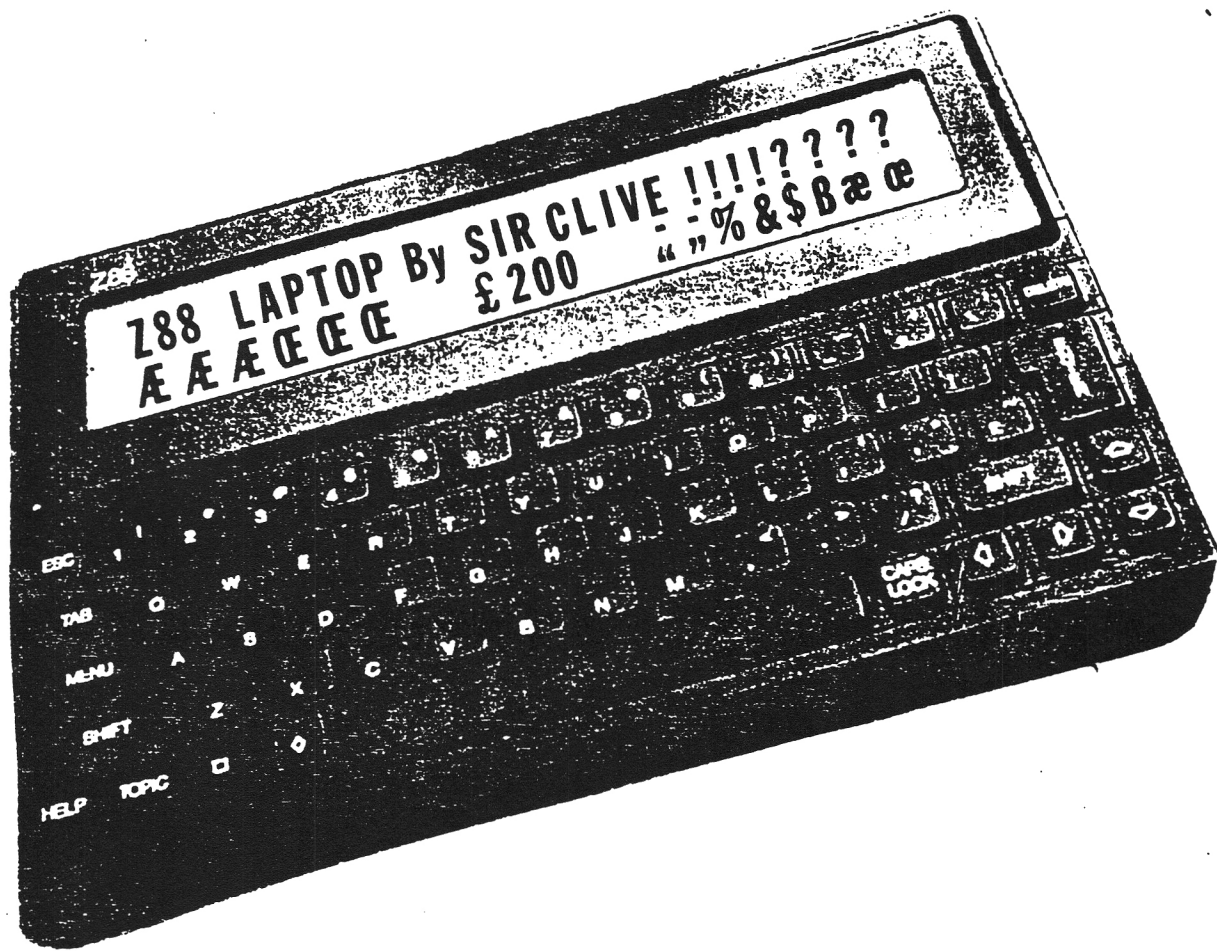


THE RAMTOP

MARCH

1987

PUBLISHED BY THE
GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USERS GROUP



WEST SIDE GROUP MEETS AT LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
15425 DETROIT AVE. LAKEWOOD OHIO 7:00 P.M.
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY EACH MONTH
CONTACT: DICK SIEG (216) 433-4387

EAST SIDE GROUP MEETS AT THE EUCLID SQUARE MALL
IN THE EUCLIDIAN ROOM 7:30 P.M.
EVERY FIRST FRIDAY EACH MONTH
CONTACT: MAX SCHOENFELD (216) 371-1096

A short note to our friends from other newsletters and magazines. You are welcome to use any of our material, news, adds, or programs if YOU: (1) Tell where it came from (RAMTOP Cleveland, Ohio) and (2) The author's name that wrote the article. We would appreciate it if you would send us a copy of the newsletter that it appeared in! Unless otherwise notified we will do the same.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR NEWSLETTER !

THE TSU-BBS IS ALIVE
SYSOP:Chris Raynak PHONE:216-327-1099 PARAMETERS:7/1/0

TIMEX/SINCLAIR NEWS & RESOURCES

news/rumors
hardware software literature

March 1987 by Andy Kosiorek

A PREVIEW OF

THE

Z 88

In February, USA TODAY, ran a short news release about Sir Clive's latest product, the Z88. This is a lap size portable PC, similiar in concept to the Tandy Model 100. The reported details were that it weighed less than two pounds, was approximately 11-1/2" x 8-1/4", IBM compatible and will be on sale for \$350 via mail order in April....well that report is not entirely accurate.

The March issue of "Personal Computer World", a british mag similiar to "Byte" printed a preview review by Guy Kewney. I have respected this magazine for it's tell it like it really is style, and Kewney's article lives up to this tradition. Rons report was written in January, after viewing a mock up of the proposed product. Here are the details that he observed:

- The machine will have a Z30 CPU, with 128K of ROM for its operating system and resident programs. User RAM is 32K, but expandable.

- The display is made by Epson, a high contrast, 8 line by 100 column liquid crystal unit, reported to be very easy to read under "normal" light.

The working text width is 80 columns, in a central window. On the left is a menu window of 106 characters. On the right is a pixel map of a 64 line page. To the far right is a window showing machine status.

- The keyboard is to be standard querty style slightly reduced to fit the machines size. The actual keyboard was not available for the authors review only a wood model.

- Below the spacebar, there are to be slots for insertion of mini ROM/RAM cartridges, which are to be the machines program storage and memory expansion devices. No disk or microdrives.

- Also around the perimeter is an expansion bus and RS 232 port, the only link for a modem or printer.

TIMEX/SINCLAIR NEWS & RESOURCES

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March 1987 by Andy Kosiorek

The Z88 - -continued...

SOFTWARE:

The resident software is to include BBC Basic, a calander/dairy - database, a calculator, and a combined wordprocessor-spreadsheet similiar to Lotus 1-2-3, and a utility called PC Link.

The user may switch between programs at will, and return to a previous program, and continue were you he left off.

POWER:

The power source is four AA batteries, claimed to provide 20 hours of operation. The machine is to maintain its memory while you replace its batteries. ???

COMPATABILITY

If this machine is built around a Z80, a 8-bit system, then compatability with IBM or any of the other 16-bit systems seems highly unlikely. Maybe someone will offer a aftermarket ZX81 ROM Basic operating system for it. The rights to the ZX81 and Spectrum OS are under Amstrad's and Timex's control..

Availability...

Sinclair's new company, Cambridge Computers, is to start taking mail orders in April, with delivery in ??????????. So It's unlikely anyone will have a demo model at the May Indy T/S Computer Fest.

THE 1987 TIMEX/SINCLAIR COMPUTER FEST, MAY 2 & 3rd, Indianapolis.

If you can make it to this Fest for even one day, I urge you to attend. Some vendors have booked large spaces, and may be selling off their remaining T/S inventory.

There is a movement by a small but vocal group to move the Fest to the west coast in 1988. This I believe would hurt the Fest's chances for continued strong support and survival.

XX

QoLumn

by Gabe Schaffer

XX

Hello. This month, we'll look at a few ways to adjust the program from last month's column (QLDRAW1.4) along with a lot of other TIPS. By the way, is anyone out there (reading this column?) If so, please either tell me at the meeting or write to the usual address:

Gabe Schaffer
2599 Saybrook Rd.
Univ. Hts., OH 44118

XX

TIPS

XX

To switch from TV mode to monitor mode, type
POKE 163890,0:NEW

To switch from monitor mode to TV mode, type
POKE 163890,127:NEW

XXXXXX

To switch into CAPS LOCK mode (reversible by pressing CAPS LOCK), type
POKE_W 163976,65535

To switch into CAPS LOCK mode which is only reversible by typing the above POKE and CAPS LOCK, type
POKE_W 163976,256

NOTE: On rare occasions, the system variables move around, making the above statements inaccurate

XXXXXX

To stop any motion on the screen, type CTRL and F5 at the same time. To start the screen moving again, press any key.

XXXXXX

If you want the SGN function (returns 1, 0, or -1 for positive, zero or negative argument), add this at the beginning of your program:

```
DEFINE FUNCTION sgn(sn):IF sn<0:RETURN -1:ELSE  
RETURN NOT (NOT sn):END DEFINE
```

XXXXXX

The equivalent of LEFT\$(string\$,length) on the QL is
string\$(1 TO length)

The equivalent of MID\$(string\$,start,length) on the QL is
string\$(start TO start+length)

The equivalent of RIGHT\$(string\$,length) on the QL is
string\$(LEN(string\$)-length TO)

XXXXXX

In you have typed in last month's program, QLDRAW 1.4 (and run it), you have probably noticed the drawing screen was large for a TV, and quite small for a monitor. Here are some ways to correct the problem:

Line 420 is where the size of the windows are defined. In the OPEN statement, the values after the con_ are length horizontally x length vertically a amount of pixels from left side of screen x amount of pixels from top of screen. In the WINDOW statement, the parameters are the same as the OPEN statement.

To make the screen 'skinnier', make length horizontally smaller. To center it again, you will have to make amount of pixels from left side of screen larger. In lines 200 and 210, change the 478 to the current length horizontally minus four (4).

To make the screen 'taller', make length vertically larger. Next, make the amount of pixels from top of screen in the WINDOW statement the same as length vertically in the OPEN statement. Finally, in lines 140 and 150, make the 160 to the current length horizontally minus two (2).

XXXXXX

To detect the ENTER key with INKEY\$, use
INKEY%=CHR\$(10)

XXXXXX

To convert from fahrenheit to celsius, use
DEFINE FUNCTION cel(fa):RETURN (n-32)*5/9:END
DEFINE

To convert from celsius to fahrenheit, use
DEFINE FUNCTION far(ce):RETURN n*9/5+32:END DEFINE

XXXXXX

Do not CLOSE #0 because if you OPEN it again, you will not be able to EDIT. If you want to change the shape/position of #0 use the WINDOW command.

Please note:

We have NOT forgotten about you 2068ers or 1000/1500 fans! I just happen to get a lot on the QL this month. Next month there will be more for 2068. JGD

```

print file:
100 REMARK These programs are designed for TV mode
110 MODE 80
120 INK 7:PAPER 0:BORDER 0
130 CLS
140 PRINT "Quick Copy Utility Tape #1 By CTR Software Productions"
150 PRINT"\\This program is intended for making backup copies of your vital\\"software. It has been donated to the public in a 'Freewa
' format."
160 PRINT "If you find this program useful, and wish to see more such programs"
170 PRINT "or receive updates send a donation to the address below."
180 PRINT "This will put you on my mailing list for these updates. Thank you!"
190 PRINT"\\ Chris Raynak"
200 PRINT " 5705 Lear Nagle Rd."
210 PRINT " N.Ridgeville, OH 44039"
220 PRINT"\\\"PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE"
230 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 230
240 CLS
250 PRINT"1) Qcopy 1.0 -You can enter the volume name of drive two."
260 PRINT"2) Qcopy 1.1 -The tape you are copying from has a scratch file written to it, for direct copy of the volume name."
270 PRINT"3) Qcopy 1.15 -The tape you are copying from has a scratch file written to it, and you are give a directory of tape 2."
280 PRINT"4) Qcopy 1.2 -You are asked for a new volume name. No scratch file is written to the ORIGINAL in drive 1. You are then s
on a directory"
290 PRINT"\\\"Please note all transfers require the ORIGINAL to be in MDV1, and a BLANK or NON-FORMATED tape in MDV2."
300 PRINT "Your selection?(1 to 4)=>";
310 INPUT a
320 IF a=1 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1
330 IF a=2 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_1
340 IF a=3 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_15
350 IF a=4 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_2
360 GO TO 300

```

QCOPY 1

```

100 MODE 80:PAPER 0:INK 7:CLS
110 AT 10:11:PRINT "Microdrive Quick Copy Version 1.0 by Chris Raynak"
120 AT 18:0:PRINT "Please put tape to be copied in drive #1 and a blank tape in drive #2."
130 AT 19:17:PRINT "Then press any key when ready..."
140 IF INKEY$=""THEN GO TO 140
150 CLS
160 INPUT "Volume Name?":a$
170 CLS
180 PRINT "Formatting drive 2."
190 FORMAT "mdv2_"a$
200 PRINT "Opening scratch file on drive 2."
210 OPEN_NEW #7, mdv2_scratch
220 PRINT "Reading directory from mdv1 and writing to scratch file."
230 DIR #7:mdv1_
240 PRINT "Closing scratch file."
250 CLOSE #7
260 PRINT "File Transfer begins...."
270 PRINT "Reading data from Scratch file."
280 OPEN_IN #7,mdv2_scratch
290 INPUT #7:a$
300 INPUT #7:b$
310 IF EOF (#7) THEN GO TO 360
320 INPUT #7:a$
330 PRINT "Copying "a$" from drive 1 to 2."
340 COPY "mdv1_"a$ TO "mdv2_"a$
350 GO TO 310
360 PRINT "Erasing scratch file.":CLOSE #7
370 DELETE mdv2_scratch
380 PRINT"\\Copy completed! Please wait for drive 2 to stop before you remove thecartridge."
390 INPUT #0:"More copies?":a$
400 IF a$="Y" OR a$="y" THEN GO TO 100
410 PRINT "Program terminated."

```

QCOPY

by
Chris Raynak

Qcopy is a program for your QL computer that will allow you to make back up copies of your own software. I know that there may be other versions of such programs available, but since none have come to print yet, and there is a need for one right now, I decided to send Greg mine. There are a variety of program listings here. Select the one (or ones) that you like the best and type them in. They all have built instructions so have fun!

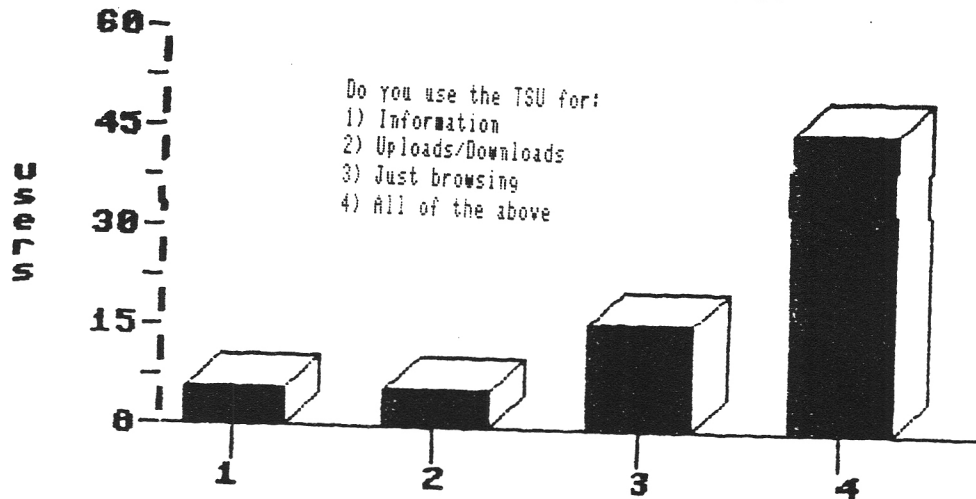
Thanks Chris!

PLEASE NOTE:

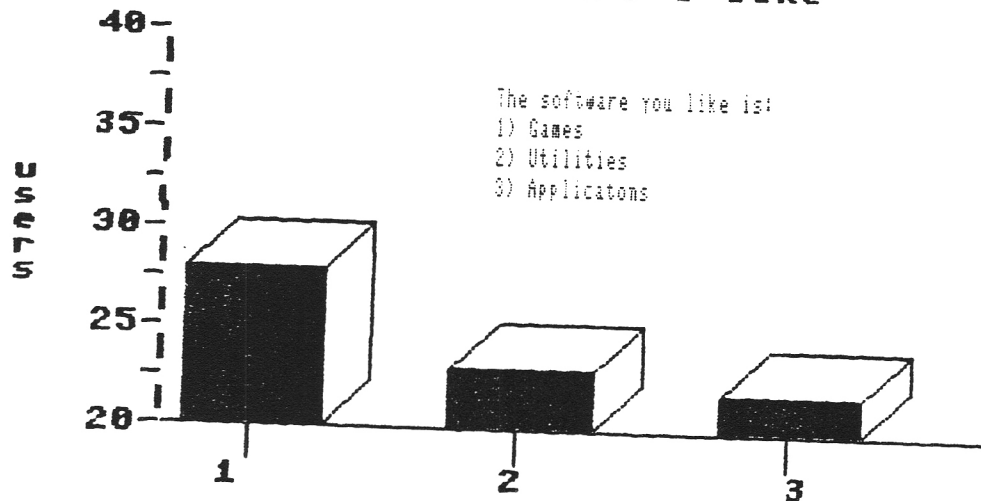
The rest of Chris's article (program listings) will appear next month!

Hello all! I have been away from the ol' keyboard long enough, and decided to finally do something constructive. This is a survey that I have been taking for the better part of a year now, and it has produced some interesting results. Granted, the survey is not long, and not limited to Timex users, but then it would not be a true survey! Here are the questions and the answer numbers. You can look at the graphs and see how it all adds up.....

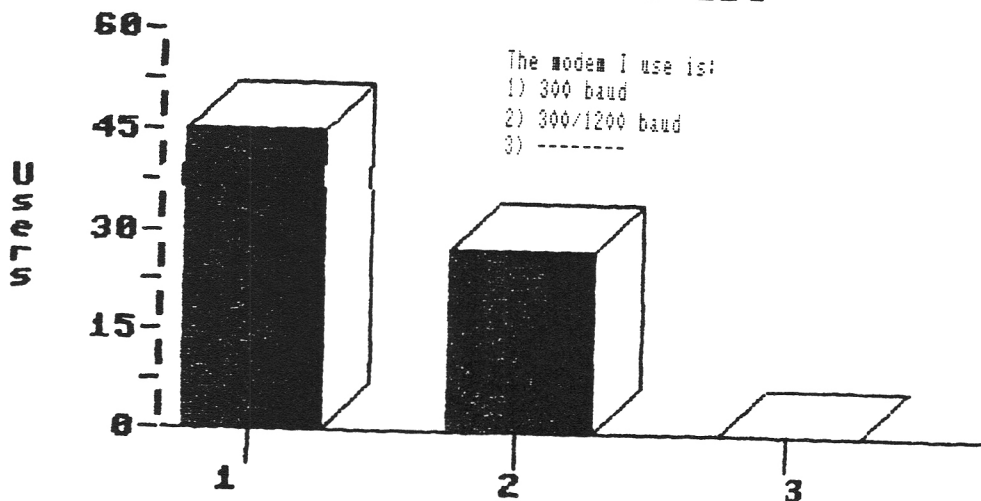
I use the TSU for



The software I like



The modem I use



March Editorial

Howdy! here we are clear into the end of March with April on the way! Where does the time fly to?! Have you set yourselves up for the Midwest T/S Computer fest? I sure hope so. I will be there! I was thinking that it would be nice if those that are going Friday night could get together that night for dinner! What do YOU think? If you like this idea, let's discuss it in April. I hope you will all be there. I know this is not possible, but I hope you make this a priority since it is a good possibility that several vendors may be getting out of the T/S line. It seems that Zebra may be one of them. I have wrote to them but they are very POOR about writting back to people!

Please note that the library tape out now is version 2.1 and has new programs on it. It is now possible to make 8 copies at the meetings. If you don't have this 2.1 tape, be sure to get it. All you need do is bring your recorder and your tape cable that you normally use with the computer and a C-60 tape. You should also bring an AC adaptor if you need it.

Below, you find a listing for the FILE 0 for the OLIGER disk system. This is a really nice program since it uses the CATalog to get its data so you don't have to update it or worry about it not fitting back on the disk. This program just barely fits so BE SURE TO ENTER IT JUST AS YOU SEE IT! You will also note that there are a lot of token words used so if the program doesn't work, this may be your mistake. If you have a problem, give me a call..... 216-661-4105. The program was written by ROELF MULDER and modified by JOHN OLIGER. I found that the written copy that I got wouldn't run since several items in line 10 didn't use the VAL and quotes. This listing WILL WORK!

JJD

```

1 CLEAR : DIM c$(VAL "178",VA
L "20"): LET s=SGN PI: LET o=NOT
PI: INK VAL "7": PAPER o: BORDE
R o: CLS
10 LET q$=" STEP "+CHR$ VAL "1
0"+CHR$ o+"*K\ "+CHR$ VAL "17"+CH
R$ VAL "8"+CHR$ o+CHR$ VAL "25"+
CHR$ VAL "235"+"! &"+CHR$ s+" CL
OSE #"+CHR$ VAL "13"+CHR$ VAL "2
37"+VAL "1"+CHR$ VAL "16"+CHR$ CH
R$ VAL "14"+CHR$ VAL "16"+CHR$ V
AL "237"+VAL "+CHR$ VAL "17"+CH
R$ VAL "20"+CHR$ o+">"+CHR$ VAL
"128"+PEEK ("+CHR$ VAL "4"+CHR$
VAL "3"+CHR$ VAL "25"+CHR$
VAL "249"+OUT
100 DRAW INK s:VAL "255",o: DRA
W INK s:o,VAL "175": DRAW INK s:
VAL "-255",o: DRAW INK s:o,VAL
-175": BEEP VAL ".1",VAL "25"
200 LET a=(PEEK VAL "23627"+PEE
K VAL "23628"*VAL "256"+VAL "358
3"): LET c=INT (a/VAL "256"): PO
KE VAL "23549",VAL "195": POKE V
AL "23550",a-(c*VAL "256"): POKE
VAL "23551",c: LET fi=USR VAL "
23549": LET row=s+s: LET col=VAL
"9": LET n$=c$(VAL "178", TO VA
L "16")
300 IF n$(LEN n$)=" " THEN LET
n$=n$( TO LEN n$-s): GO TO VAL "
300"
320 PRINT AT o,VAL "16"-(LEN n$
/VAL "2"): OVER s: INK VAL "5":n
$:AT o,VAL "8": OVER s:"116p445.
": PAPER o
405 LET f=s: LET c=INT ((fi/VAL
"18"): LET dif=INT ((fi/VAL "18"
-c)*VAL "18"+VAL ".4"): LET loop
=VAL "17"

```

```

410 LET it=s: IF loop>=fi THEN
LET loop=fi: GO TO VAL "425"
415 FOR i=s TO c: FOR m=0 TO lo
op: PRINT AT row+m,10;c$(it, TO
10): LET it=it+1: NEXT m: GO SUB
VAL "500": NEXT i: FOR i=s+s TO
VAL "19": PRINT AT i,9:
": NEXT i: IF NOT dif THEN G
O TO VAL "410"
425 IF f THEN FOR m=0 TO dif-s:
PRINT AT row+m,10;c$(it, TO 10)
: LET it=it+1: NEXT m: IF loop>=
fi THEN LET f=0
427 IF NOT f THEN LET it=fi+s
430 GO SUB VAL "500": GO TO VAL
"410"
500 FOR L=0 TO m-s: PRINT AT ro
w+L,col: INVERSE s:">": IF q$<>
" THEN PAUSE col: LET q$="": PAU
SE col
510 LET a$=INKEY$: IF a$="" THE
N LET q$="p": GO TO VAL "510"
515 BEEP VAL ".02",VAL "30"
520 IF a$=CHR$ VAL "13" THEN GO
TO VAL "500"
530 PRINT AT row+L,col:" ": NEX
T L: RETURN
600 LET pos=it-m+L: LET d$=c$(p
os, TO VAL "10"): LET a=CODE c$(
pos,VAL "11"): IF NOT a THEN LOA
D /d$
610 IF a=s THEN LOAD /d$ DATA n
()
620 IF a=VAL "2" THEN LOAD /d$
DATA n$()
630 IF a=INT PI THEN LOAD /d$CO
DE
640 IF a=VAL "4" THEN LOAD /d$A
BS
650 IF a=VAL "5" THEN LOAD /d$U
AL

```

If you would like to subscribe to the RAMTOP please fill out this form and send it to the listed address along with a check for: \$15/Year or \$7.50/ 6 mo. to become a member of our Group (Attend meetings, use library tapes Ect.) or: \$12/Year or \$6/ 6 months to receive the RAMTOP only. Please make checks payable to the RAMTOP! (The phone # is only for our records!)

*Please print! Enclosed: \$ _____ for 1 year__ / 6 months__ *

*NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ - - - - - *

*STREET: _____ We need your phone #
for our records! *

*CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ *

*Type of computer(s) and peripheral(s) you own: _____ *

* *THANK YOU for your interest!* Please send to: *

*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135 *

NORTH COAST COMPUTER FAIR

The Greater Cleveland Timex Sinclair Users Group and the Euclid Square Mall are jointly sponsoring the North Coast Computer Fair at the Mall on the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

Area users' groups and computer clubs are being invited to take part in this Fair, at no charge. Plans are to rent space to vendors and to offer computer related prizes.

This is a great opportunity for groups to acquaint the public with their existence and to show how they can help owners of particular brands. It is also a great chance for us to show that Sinclair is alive and active.

October may not be just around the corner, but it does give all of us time to get organized. We need the help and ideas of our own members to show ourselves in the best light possible.

I hope this will be out by the start of the Quaker Square Computer Fair. It will be March 21, and 22. That's in Akron.

A meeting for all interested groups is to be held in the Conference Room of the Mall Office on Saturday, April 4th at 1:00 P.M. We will meet with the Mall management to start on the details of the Fair.

We ask our members who have contact with other users' groups to urge them to take part in this project and to attend this meeting.

For further information, contact:

Max Schoenfeld
Chairman,
Computer Fair
Committee
Phone 371-1096

I just want to take a moment to thank CHRIS RAYNAK and PAUL BANASIK for a very interesting presentation on the TSU BBS! I found it interesting to see several computers working together to create this BBS! Also, many thanks to CHRIS for taking the time to set it up and keep it running! If you haven't called yet, you are in for a treat! It runs fast so you don't waste a lot of time!

THE FOLLOWING FORM IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A LIBRARY TAPE. YOU MUST FILL THIS OUT AND RETURN IT IF YOU WANT A TAPE MAILED TO YOU! This form is for those of you that DON'T attend the meetings. There are 2 ways to get a copy of the programs in our library: 1- Send a C-90 with your return address and \$1.00 (P&H) or 2- We will send you a tape that you can keep for \$3.00. (Make checks payable to The RAMTOP)
Thank You for your support of our group!

 * LIBRARY TAPE FORM *
 *
 * NAME _____ PHONE _____
 * phone # is REQUIRED!
 * ADDRESS _____
 * CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 *
 * TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU OWN: 1000/ZX-81 ____ /1500 ____ /2068 ____
 * check all that you have : QL ____ OTHER _____
 *
 * Do you have a DISK system: (type) _____
 * Please note that we request that the form be filled out as
 * completely as possible.

Mail the form along with your check (\$1.00 or \$3.00) to:
 Dean Miller (Librarian) + It would be appreciated if you
 29324 Park St. + send us any noncopyrighted soft-
 Wickliffe, OH, 44092 + ware!!! (Phone- 216-944-8630)

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From:
 THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USERS GROUP
 James G. DuPuy (Editor)
 6514 Bradley Ave.(Down)
 Parma, Ohio 44129

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL